

# National Parks Associated With Hispanic Heritage

**Cabrillo National Monument, 1899**  
Cabrillo Memorial Drive, San Diego, CA 92106-3601, 619-557-5450. The Cabrillo National Monument commemorates Portuguese explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo's voyage along the California coast in 1542. It was during this voyage that he claimed the west coast of the present-day United States for Spain. Cabrillo National Monument marks the site of Cabrillo's first landing.

**Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, 1** South Castillo Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32084-3699, 904-829-6506. Construction of the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument—the oldest masonry fort in the continental United States—was begun in 1672 by Spanish soldiers to protect St. Augustine, the first permanent settlement by Europeans in the continental United States.

**Chamizal National Memorial, 800** South San Marcial Avenue, El Paso, TX 79905-4123, 915-532-7273. The Chamizal National Monument commemorates the signing in 1963 of the Chamizal Treaty, which ended a 99-year boundary dispute between the United States and Mexico.

*Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de Acuña, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. The best preserved of all the Texas mission units, with a massive Mexican Baroque style church and adjacent convent, now a National Historic Landmark.*

**Coronado National Memorial, 4101** East Montezuma Canyon Road, Hereford, AZ 85615-9376, 520-366-5515. The Coronado National Memorial commemorates the first European exploration of the Southwest, in 1540-42. The Memorial is located near the point at which Francisco Vasquez de Coronado's expedition entered what is now the United States.

**De Soto National Memorial, P.O. Box** 15390, Bradenton, FL 34280-5390, 941-792-0458. The De Soto National Memorial commemorates the landing of Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto in Florida in 1539. De Soto's expedition was the first organized extensive European exploration of what is now the southeastern United States.

**Dry Tortugas National Park, P. O. Box** 6208, Key West, FL 33041-6208. 305-242-7700. In 1513, Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon gave the area now known as the Dry Tortugas National Park its name—"Las Tortugas"—for the large sea turtle population. "Dry" was added soon after to warn mariners of the lack of fresh water. The area offered a haven for seafarers, including the Spanish. During the Spanish-American War, the Navy Department constructed a coaling station there. It was the last port of call for the USS *Maine* before her fateful trip to Havana, Cuba.

**El Morro National Monument, Route 2,** Box 43, Ramah, NM 87321-9603, 505-783-4226. The El Morro National Monument—named for 17th-century Spanish conquistadors who explored the area—features "Inscription Rock," a soft sandstone monolith. On Inscription Rock are carved hundreds of inscriptions, including pre-Columbian petroglyphs and graffiti from both 17th-century Spanish explorers and 19th-century American settlers.

**Fort Caroline National Memorial, 12713** Fort Caroline Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225-1299, 904-641-7155. The Fort Caroline National Memorial overlooks the site of a French Huguenot colony of 1564-65, only the second French attempt at settlement in the present-day United States. Here, the French and Spanish began what was to become two centuries of colonial rivalry in North America.

**Fort Matanzas National Monument, 8635** A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32086-8400, 904-471-0116. The Fort Matanzas National Monument marks the site of a Spanish fort built between 1740 and 1742 to defend St. Augustine. It is called Fort Matanzas—in English, the Slaughters—after the 1565 battle during which between 200 and



300 soldiers from the French Ft. Caroline were killed in battle.

**Golden Gate National Recreation Area**, Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, CA 94123-1308, 415-556-0560. Within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area is El Presidio de San Francisco, established in 1776 as the northernmost outpost of the Spanish empire in North America.

**Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail\***, National Park Service Western Regional Office, Division of Planning, Grants, and Environmental Quality, 600 Harrison Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94107-1372, 415-744-3932. The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail follows the route taken by a party of Spanish colonists in 1775, establishing an overland route from Mexico to California. The 1,200 mile trail took them through the southwest and up the California coast to present day San Francisco.

**Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site**, P.O. Drawer 1832, Brownsville, TX 78522-1832, 210-548-2788. The Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site is the location of the first two important Mexican War battles fought on American soil. The first of these battles—the Battle of Palo Alto, fought on May 8, 1846—was won by Gen. Zachary Taylor's United States soldiers against a much larger army led by Gen. Mariano Arista. This victory made the U.S. invasion of Mexico possible.

**Pecos National Historical Park**, P.O. Box 418, Pecos, NM 87552-0418, 505-757-6032. The Pecos National Historical Park contains the ruins of the 15th-century Pueblo of the Pecos and the remains of two Spanish missions, one built in the 17th century, the other in the 18th century. The ruins later became an important landmark on the Santa Fe Trail.

**Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument**, Broadway & Ripley, P. O. Box 517, Mountainair, NM 87036, 505-847-2585. The Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument incorporates three major pueblos built in the 17th century, as well as four large churches built by the Franciscans. This was one of the most populous parts of the Pueblo world by the 17th century.

**Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve**, P.O. Box 160, Christiansted, St. Croix, USVI 00821-0160, 809-773-1460. In November 1493, Christopher Columbus dropped anchor in the Salt River inlet in

the present-day Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve in search of sources of fresh water. This location is the first and only positively documented of two sites associated with Columbus on what is now U.S. territory. During the following two centuries, Spain dispatched military expeditions to the area to dislodge foreign encroachments.

**San Antonio Missions National Historical Park**, 2202 Roosevelt Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78210-4919, 210-534-8833. The San Antonio Missions National Historical Park contains four Spanish missions, the greatest concentration of Roman Catholic missions in North America. The missions were built from the 17th through the 19th centuries, and served as the foundation of the present-day city of San Antonio.

**San Juan National Historic Site**, Fort San Cristobal, Norzagaray Street, Old San Juan, PR 00901-2094, 809-729-6777. The San Juan National Historic Site contains the massive fortifications begun by the Spanish in the 16th century to protect this strategic harbor guarding the sea lanes to the New World. These are the oldest fortifications in the territorial United States.

**Tumacácori National Historical Park**, P.O. Box 67, Tumacácori, AZ 85640-0067, 602-398-2341. The Tumacácori National Historic Park contains the ruins of a Roman Catholic mission near the site visited in 1691 by Father Eusebio Francisco Kino, a German-educated Jesuit priest. Later, the building became the northernmost outpost of a chain of Spanish missions established by Franciscan priests in the late 18th century.

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#### **Note**

\* Affiliated and national trails system areas.

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*Compiled by Bryan Clark Green, a NCSHPO historian with Heritage Preservation Services, NPS.*

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